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Macroeconomic policy questions: science and technology for development

Islamic Republic of Iran:* draft resolution

Science and technology for development

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in coordinating the activities of the United Nations system in the area of science and technology for development,

Cognizant of the role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as the secretariat responsible for the substantive servicing of the Commission,

Bearing in mind the cross-cutting nature of science and technology within the United Nations system and the need, inter alia, for effective policy guidance and better coordination,

Recognizing the importance of establishing and strengthening partnership and networking among the public and private sectors and academic institutions of the South and the North to build, transfer and strengthen the technological capabilities and skills needed for developing countries,

Stressing that the pace of globalization is influenced in large measure by the development of science and technology and that developing countries should be assisted in becoming well equipped with the knowledge of science and technology and the practical skills associated with technology management so as to enable them to benefit from the opportunities offered by globalization and avoid the risk of their marginalization in the process of globalization,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

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Recognizing the central role of information and communication technologies in creating a global knowledge-based economy, in accelerating growth, raising competitiveness, promoting sustainable development, eradicating poverty and facilitating the effective integration of all countries into the global economy,

Recognizing also the need for dissemination of research knowledge and sharing of technologies and expertise in the field of biotechnology, in particular in the areas of agriculture, pharmaceuticals and health care, that could benefit mankind,

Welcoming the establishment of the Information and Communication Technology Task Force, which will play a leadership and catalytic role in bridging the digital divide, fostering digital opportunity and firmly putting information and communication technology at the service of development for all so as to achieve the internationally agreed development goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

1. *Decides* that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development should meet annually;

2. *Requests* the Commission to establish an open-ended working group for the purpose of analysing ways and means of improving the role and participation of the Commission in the recommendation and policy-making process of the United Nations system on issues of science and technology, with the aim of working towards the strengthening of the Commission;

3. *Welcomes* the proposal of the Commission on a study of the feasibility of establishing an international mechanism for supporting and enhancing research and development within the developing countries and in areas critical to the developing countries, especially in the fields of health, education and agriculture;[2]

4. *Stresses* the importance of facilitating access to and the transfer of technology to developing countries on concessional terms, in particular in knowledge-intensive sectors, with the objective of enhancing their technological capacities, capabilities, productivity and competitiveness in the world market;

5. *Emphasizes* the need to reduce regulatory limitations on the transfer of technology, in particular to developing countries, and stresses the importance of identifying barriers to and unjustifiable restrictions on the transfer of technologies, inter alia, with a view to addressing such constraints while creating specific incentives, fiscal and otherwise, for the transfer of technologies, including new and innovative ones;

6. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to integrate the Commission on Science and Technology in its role as the coordinator of scientific and technological activities into upcoming events and their preparatory processes, such as the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held at Johannesburg, South Africa, from 2 to 11 September 2002, the two phases of the World Summit on the Information Society,

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[1] A/56/96.

[2] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 11* (E/2001/31), chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution III.

the first to be held at Geneva in 2003 and the second at Tunis in 2005, the work of the Information and Communication Technology Task Force and the follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summit meetings;

7. *Also calls upon* the Secretary-General to strengthen the Commission and its secretariat within the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development secretariat by providing it with the necessary resources to enable it better to carry out its mandate of assisting the developing countries with their national development efforts in the field of science and technology;

8. *Further calls upon* the United Nations system and the donor community to strengthen activities in South-South cooperation, so that the developing countries, which face similar challenges, can share their experiences;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its fifty-eighth session, a report on the present constraints to the access to knowledge and technology, as well as on possible ways and means of improving the transfer of knowledge and technology to developing countries.